

REMARKS

Claims 18-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 18-20 have been amended to fix a discrepancy in the claim numbering. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The specification stands objected to due to some informalities. In response, Applicant has amended the specification to overcome the informalities. The Abstract stands objected to due to some informalities. In response, Applicant submits herewith a replacement abstract.

Claims 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,318,934 to Borgersen et al. ("Borgersen").

Independent claim 18 relates to a retaining wall block. Applicant respectfully submits that Borgersen fails to teach or suggest at least one of the distinguishing features of independent claim 1, namely, at least one groove adapted to receive a stabilizing element, the groove extending laterally rearward of a front body portion and forward of a rear body portion or laterally between left and right body portions.

Borgersen discloses a wall block for use in a segmental retaining wall system. The wall block comprises an interior face for forming an interior surface of a segmentation retaining wall, an exterior face for forming an exterior surface of the segmental retaining wall, first and second sides that extend from the exterior face to the interior face, and a top surface and a bottom surface. Borgersen discloses a channel in the wall block but fails to disclose a groove extending laterally rearward of a front body portion and forward of a rear body portion or laterally between left and right body portions as claimed. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 distinguishes over Borgersen and is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 as anticipated by Borgersen is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 19-20 depend from and further restrict independent claim 18 in a patentable sense. Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 18, dependent claims 19-20 distinguish over

Borgersen and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 19-20 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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